16
BLONDE PHANTOM
10¢
COMICS
K
YOU MUSTN'T STOP ME! ONE OF THOSE MODELS IS A MURDERESS!
AND I SAY YOU'RE THE KILLER! AND THIS GUN SAYS YOU'RE NOT ENTERING THAT FASHION SHOW TILL IT'S OVER!
IT'S TIME FOR THE BLONDE PHANTOM TO GET HERE! IF SHE DOESN'T ARRIVE IN 30 SECONDS-- IT'LL BE TOO LATE!
DON'T MISS THE BLONDE PHANTOM'S GREATEST CASE! "MODELED FOR MURDER!"

WHILE THEY LAST

☆ ALL BRAND NEW ☆

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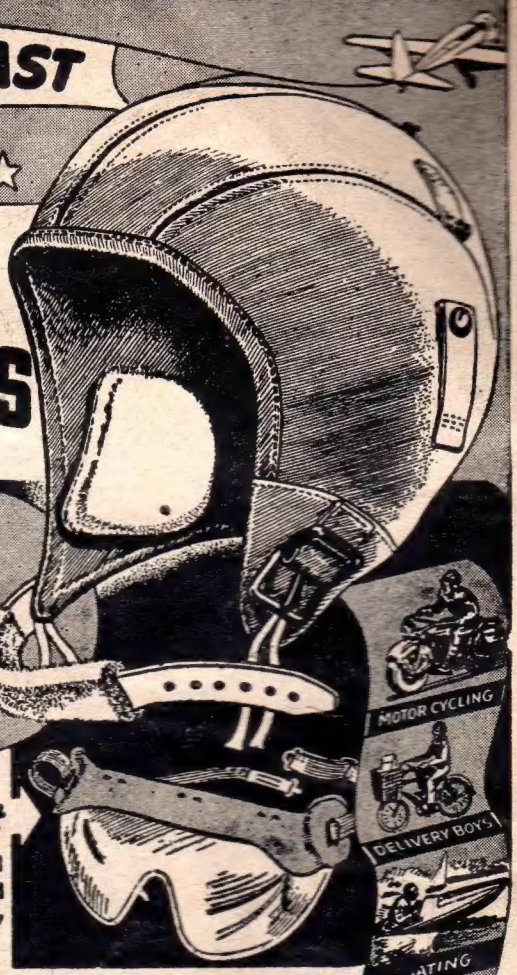

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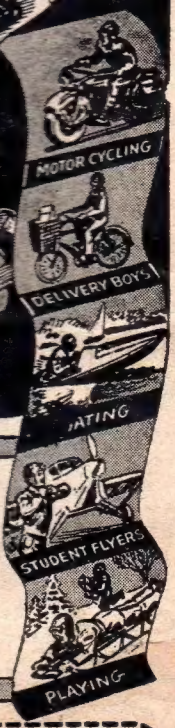

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BLONDE PHANTOM

MURDER AND BEAUTY WALKED HAND IN HAND AS THEY STALKED THE **BLONDE PHANTOM** AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRLS IN THE WORLD FOUND THEMSELVES IN THE GRIP OF AN UNSEEN TERROR, AS THEY...

"MODELLED FOR MURDER!"

1796

AT ONE OF NEW YORK'S LARGEST ADVERTISING OFFICES...

WE'RE ALL SET FOR OUR NEW PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN FOR ***LOVELY GIRL SOAP.*** CAROL! CALL THE MODEL AGENCIES TO SEND US SOME OF THEIR LOVLIEST MODELS!

RIGHT, CHIEF!

BUT ***DON'T*** CALL THE CARLTON AGENCY! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANY OF THEIR MODELS! ***THEY'RE THIEVES!***

1

IN MARK MASON'S DETECTIVE AGENCY...
HERE'S AN ODD THING, LOUISE! FIVE CARLTON MODELS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR THEFT, BUT ALL CLAIM INNOCENCE!
SUDDENLY!
MR. MASON, I'M LINDA WATERS, A CARLTON MODEL! YOU MUST HELP ME!
LINDA WATERS! YOU'RE ONE OF THE MODELS WHO WAS ARRESTED!
YES! BUT I WAS RELEASED BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE! I'M INNOCENT! I DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING!
THEN YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO MR. CARLTON! YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR!
NO, I CAN'T! I'M AFRAID OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO ME THERE!
HEY, WAIT!
SECONDS LATER!
LATER, AT THE CARLTON MODEL AGENCY...
THAT GIRL WAS HYSTERICAL! IT'S STRANGE ABOUT THIS MODEL CRIME WAVE!
I MUST CATCH HER, LOUISE! YOU WATCH THINGS HERE!
OH, NO! THE BLONDE PHANTOM IS GOING TO CALL ON THE CARLTON AGENCY!
YOU CAN TELL ME NOTHING OF LINDA WATERS, MR. CARLTON?
ONLY THAT SHE IS A THIEF! NOW LEAVE ME ALONE! I'VE A SHOW TO PUT ON AT THE RITZ FASHION SALON!
2

CARLTON SHOULD HAVE A RECORD OF LINDA WATERS! HMM, THOSE FILES...

UH-HUH! WATERS, LINDA. GOOD BACKGROUND...

OHHHHHH!

RELEASE HER, STILLFACE!

YES, MISS VENITA!

STILLFACE DOESN'T WELCOME SNOOPERS, BLONDE PHANTOM!

STILLFACE? THAT'S AN ODD NAME!

HIS FACE WAS ONCE SHOT OFF AND A PLASTIC SURGEON BUILT IT UP AGAIN WITH PLASTER!

AND WHO ARE YOU?

VENITA VAN, CARLTON'S ASSISTANT! NOW TAKE MY ADVICE AND LEAVE HERE WHILE YOU CAN!

VERY WELL!

THAT COULD BE FRIENDLY ADVICE OR A THREAT!...

THEN, IN THE RECEPTION ROOM...
HELLO, MARK! I'M TRYING TO DISCOVER WHY SO MANY MODELS HAVE TURNED TO CRIME LATELY!
BLONDE PHANTOM! YOU HERE?
THEN COME WITH ME! I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING A MODEL NAMED LINDA WATERS!
THE RECEPTIONIST SAID SHE WENT INTO THAT OFFICE A FEW MINUTES AGO! I THINK SHE KNOWS SOMETHING!
BUT, AS THEY ENTER THE OFFICE...
LINDA WATERS! MURDERED!
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A STRUGGLE! LINDA'S THINGS ARE SCATTERED ALL OVER!
THERE MIGHT BE A HINT HERE AS TO WHAT SHE KNEW!
THAT'S ODD! RIO RED LIPSTICK! HMMM!
I'LL CALL THE CORONER! THEN JOHN CARLTON IS GOING TO DO SOME EXPLAINING!
CARLTON'S AT THE RITZ SALON! MEET ME THERE AS SOON AS YOU CAN!
4

IF THIS CRIME PATTERN CONTINUES, THERE WILL BE A ROBBERY AT THE SALON THIS AFTERNOON!

SOON...

THE SHOW HAS STARTED! HERE COMES CARLTON, AND HE LOOKS ANGRY!

WILL YOU STOP MEDDLING IN MY AFFARS? IF DUBOISE SUSPECTS I'M BEING INVESTIGATED HE'LL STOP THE SHOW!

I'LL BE DISCREET! WHERE ARE THE DRESSING ROOMS?

I'LL SHOW YOU! BUT I WARN YOU, DON'T BOTHER MY MODELS!

SORRY, BUT I MUST QUESTION THEM! THERE'S BEEN A *MURDER!*

THE MODELS MUST ALL BE BUSY. BUT THEY'VE LEFT THEIR PURSES, AND THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANT! IN ONE OF THESE PURSES, IS A *CLUE* TO *MURDER!*

MURDER!

YES! NOW JUST LET ME HANDLE THIS MY OWN WAY!

THEN...

CAN'T STAY OUT OF OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS, EH, BLONDE PHANTOM?

WHAT?

STILLFACE!
YOU FOOL! YOU MIGHT HAVE KILLED HER!
BUT I THOUGHT...
I'LL DO THE THINKING! NOW PUT HER IN THIS CLOSET! THE MODELS ARE COMING BACK TO CHANGE!
YES, MISS VENITA!
TIME PASSES, AND SOON...
NOT TIED UP, THANK HEAVEN! AIR BAD IN HERE... CAN HARDLY BREATHE...
DOOR LOCKED, BUT THIS IRON BAR I FOUND ON THE FLOOR SHOULD SNAP IT!
STILLFACE! THE BLONDE PHANTOM'S ESCAPING! GET HER!
SNAP!
6

THIS TIME, I TIE YOU UP— GOOD AND TIGHT!

FRANTICALLY, THE BLONDE PHANTOM'S FINGERS CLOSE AROUND A COLD CREAM JAR!

OH! I DIDN'T STOP HIM! WHY DOESN'T MARK COME?

HA, HA! YOU FORGOT MY FACE IS LIKE STONE! AND NOW...

SUDDENLY!

LITTLE MAN WANT TO MAKE TROUBLE, HUH?

HEY! WHAT'S THIS?

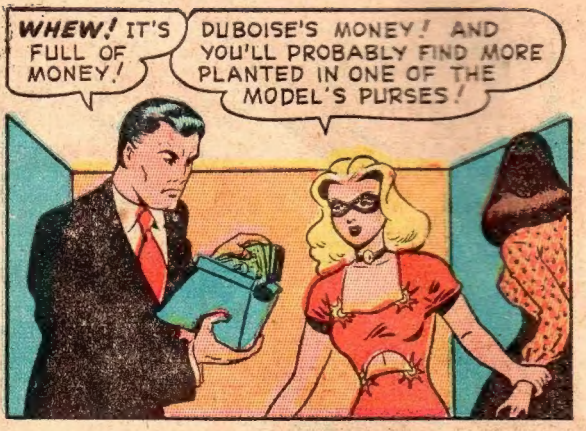
ONLY TROUBLE FOR YOU!

YOU BRUTE! YOU HIT HIS HEAD ON THE TABLE! WE WEREN'T DOING ANYTHING CRIMINAL!

NO? WELL, DUBOISE JUST REPORTED HIS SAFE WAS ROBBED! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

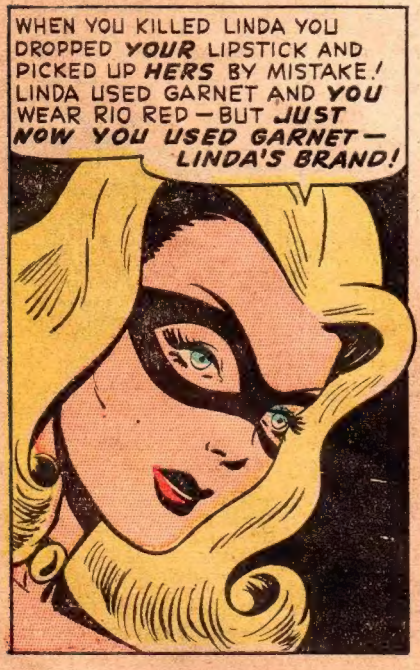
NOTHING! WE WERE JUST KEEPING THE BLONDE PHANTOM OUT OF SIGHT FOR CARLTON UNTIL AFTER THE SHOW!

CARLTON WENT TOO FAR THIS TIME!
NOT CARLTON, MARK! HE ONLY WANTED TO AVOID BAD PUBLICITY! HERE, OPEN THIS BAG!


WHEW! IT'S FULL OF MONEY!
DUBOISE'S MONEY! AND YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND MORE PLANTED IN ONE OF THE MODEL'S PURSES!

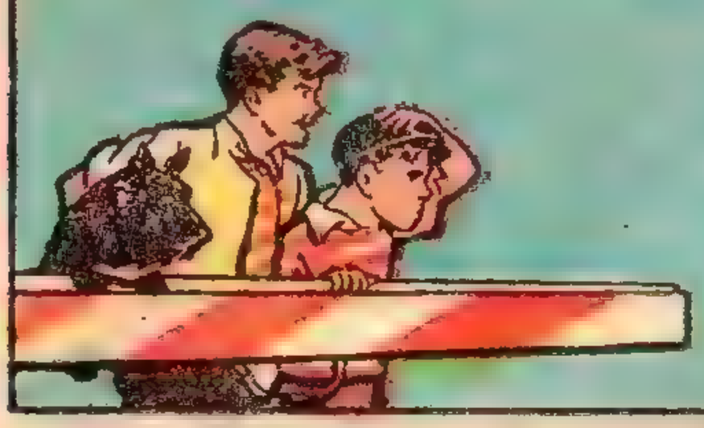
YOU'RE STAYING TO FACE A CHARGE OF MURDERING LINDA WATERS!
OHHH!

NOW, WILL YOU CONFESS?
ALL RIGHT! I'VE BEEN FRAMING THE MODELS WITH PART OF EACH ROBBERY! I KILLED LINDA BECAUSE SHE GOT SUSPICIOUS OF ME.
I LOVE CARLTON, BUT HE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME! I TRIED TO RUIN HIM!


WHEN YOU KILLED LINDA YOU DROPPED YOUR LIPSTICK AND PICKED UP HERS BY MISTAKE! LINDA USED GARNET AND YOU WEAR RIO RED—BUT JUST NOW YOU USED GARNET—LINDA'S BRAND!

THAT WAS THE CLUE I NEEDED! SO I TOOK A CHANCE AND HAD MARK OPEN YOUR BAG!
AND SURE ENOUGH, LOOT FROM DUBOISE'S SAFE—YOUR LAST THEFT!

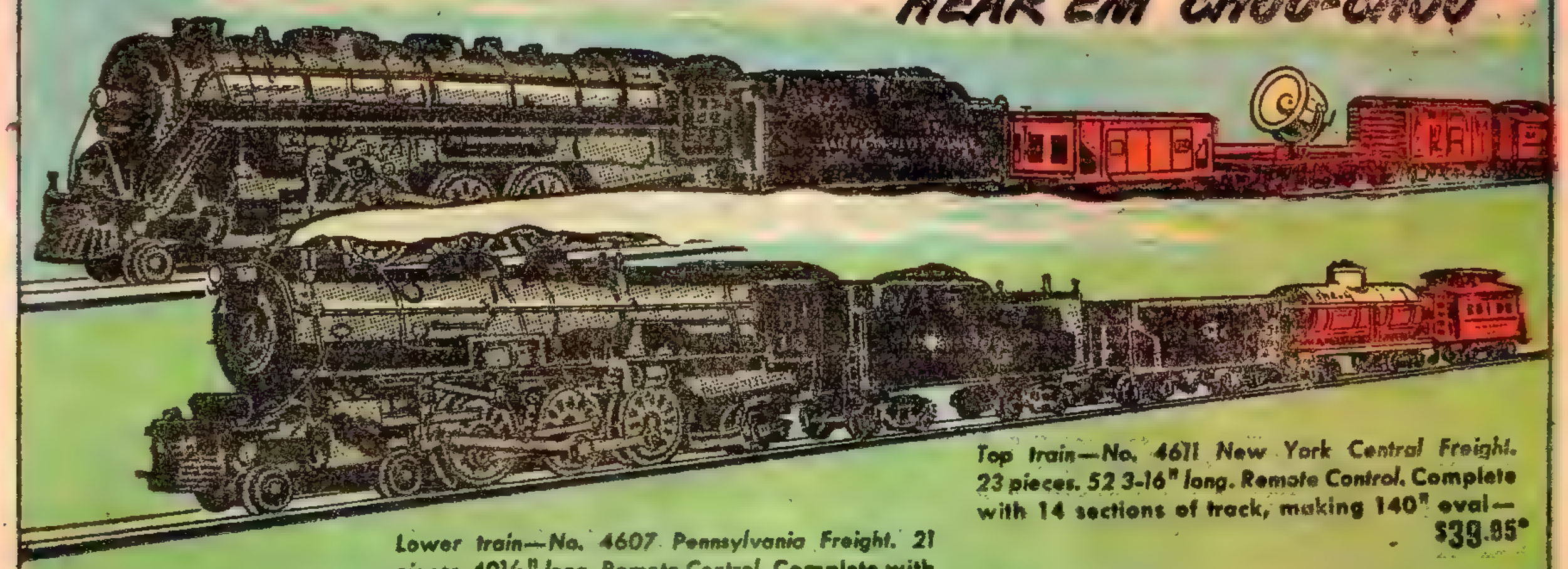
AFTER THE POLICE TAKE OVER...
NOW WE'VE TIME TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED, BLONDE PHANTOM!
MAYBE NEXT CASE, MARK! AU REVOIR!
THE END



AMERICAN FLYER

Developed at the GILBERT HALL OF SCIENCE

SEE 'EM PUFF SMOKE!
HEAR 'EM "CHOO-CHOO"



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*Denver and West, prices slightly higher.

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- ★ Realistic 2-rail track—no old-fashioned third rail
- ★ Trains and track built to uniform 3-16" scale
- ★ Spectacular new Electronic Propulsion locomotives
- ★ Billboard whistle—works with any train system

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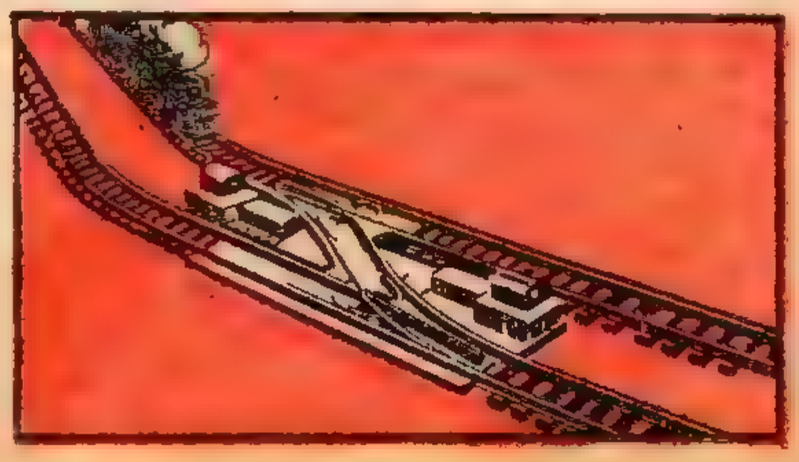

See . . . American Flyer's 2-rail track has no old-fashioned third rail in the middle. "T" design rail. Looks just like the track of a real steam railroad.

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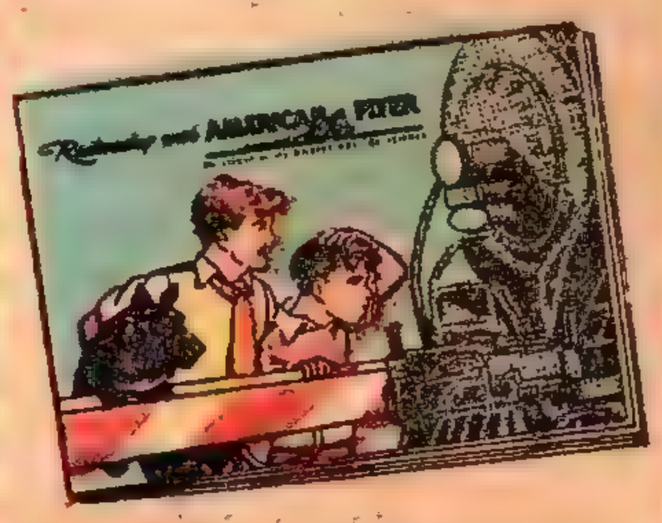

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CAPTAIN AMERICA
IN THE MIDST OF JOYOUS REVELRY AND COLORFUL PAGEANTRY, A KILLER STALKS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL OF THE EVENING'S AFFAIR... UNTIL CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY STEP IN TO TRY FOR A QUICK SOLUTION TO
"The MURDER at the MARDI GRAS!"
1420
IN ANTOINE'S MASQUER'S SHOP, THE AFTERNOON OF THE FAMED MARDI GRAS!
YOU CANNOT MOCK ANTOINE, MY PRETTY LOUISA! YOU ARE GOING TO MARRY ANOTHER! WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
I WANT A BEAUTIFUL COSTUME FOR THE MARDI GRAS!
EVEN IF YOU ARE MY DISAPPOINTED SUITOR, YOU WOULD WANT ME TO LOOK MY BEST, EH?
YOU ARE LAUGHING AT ME AGAIN! I WARNED YOU!
1

CAESAR WILL *NOT* HAVE YOU FOR HIS WIFE! I WILL KILL YOU FIRST!

STOP IT, ANTOINE, YOU'RE HURTING ME!

LITTLE FOOL! I COULD TWIST YOUR NECK— LIKE THIS!

HELP! OHHH!

Among THE CROWD OF MARDI GRAS VISITORS ARE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY...

HEAR THAT, CAP?

TROUBLE SEEMS TO FOLLOW WHEREVER WE GO!

CAPTAIN AMERICA? WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

I THINK *YOU'D* BETTER ANSWER THE QUESTIONS!

AND *THIS* SHOULD LOOSEN YOUR TONGUE, KILLER!

CROSSED SIGNALS THIS TIME, CAP! THE *GIRL'S* ALL RIGHT! SHE JUST FAINTED!

BUT HE WAS *CHOKING* HER! I SAW HIM!

I JUST FRIGHTENED HER! I WOULD NOT KILL LOUISA! I LOVE HER TOO MUCH!
HE TRIED TO KILL ME!
PLEASE TAKE ME AWAY!
DON'T TRY THAT AGAIN, ANTOINE! OR YOU'LL WIND UP WITH YOUR NECK IN A NOOSE!
I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH! I HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MARDI GRAS! I AM TO BE THE QUEEN!
WE'LL BE THERE!
Later IN A HOTEL ROOM!
HEY, STEVE, THE QUEEN WILL BE WEARING THE REAL EMPRESS JOSEPHINE JEWELS! THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WORTH A FORTUNE!
YOU'RE THE FIRST RABBIT I EVER SAW WHO COULD READ! YOU'LL BE A SENSATION AT THE MARDI GRAS!
THIS RABBIT COSTUME IS FUN! BUT YOU STILL WON'T PUT ON ANOTHER OUTFIT, EH?
THIS ONE IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME! AND IF WE'RE IN THE PARADE, WE CAN KEEP A CLOSER WATCH ON THE FLOAT!
THAT NIGHT, CARES ARE FORGOTTEN AS THE STREETS OF NEW ORLEANS ECHO TO THE JOYOUS SHOUTS OF THE MARDI GRAS!
WE'VE WALKED A MILE ALREADY! I FEEL SILLIER EVERY MINUTE!
KEEP YOUR EYES ON LOUISA, JUST IN CASE!
3

SUDDENLY!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

CAP! I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD!

I'M DIZZY! MY LEGS FEEL LIKE THEY'RE GOING OFF IN ALL DIRECTIONS!

TAKE A REST, BUCKY! THAT'S MY CUE!

OH! SHE'S DEAD!

MY BEAUTIFUL LOUISA! SHE'S MURDERED!

CAPTAIN AMERICA PUSHES THROUGH THE CROWD GATHERED AROUND THE QUEENS FLOAT, and...

I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU WERE RIGHT!

SHE'S DEAD, ALL RIGHT! HMM! AND THESE JEWELS AREN'T THE REAL ONES!

THERE IS ANTOINE! *HE* KILLED HER!

MOMENTS LATER...

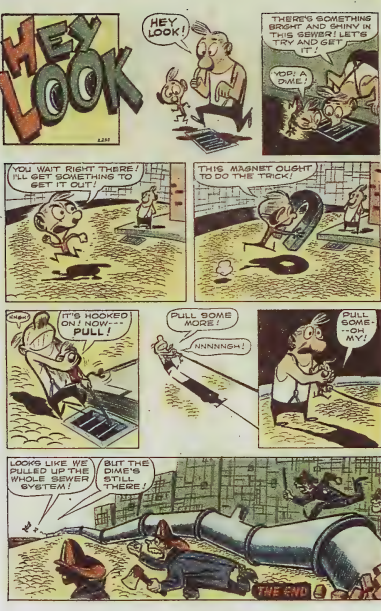
I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW HOW HE DID IT? IS A DOCTOR EXAMINING HER?

YOU HAVE CAUGHT HIM! THE MURDERER OF MY POOR LOUISA!

SOCK!

NO QUESTION OF IT! SHE DIED OF POTASSIUM CYANIDE POISONING — ADMINISTERED AS A GAS!
BUT, DOCTOR, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NO ONE WAS NEAR ENOUGH TO...
BUCKY! YOU HERE? BUT I THOUGHT...
I FEEL BETTER NOW AND I FOUND A PIECE OF EVIDENCE THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU!
THIS IS JUST A COLLAPSED BALLOON!
SMELL IT, CAP! THERE'S A FAINT ODOR OF ALMONDS! THAT'S THE SMELL OF POTASSIUM CYANIDE!
A BALLOON FILLED WITH POISONOUS GAS, AND EXPLODED JUST AHEAD OF THE QUEEN'S FLOAT! THAT'S OUR MURDER WEAPON, BUCKY! AND IT EXPLAINS WHY YOU GOT SO DIZZY WHEN THE FUMES WERE CARRIED BACK TO YOU!
I DIDN'T SMELL THEM BECAUSE THEY JUST BARELY REACHED YOU! YOU WERE SAVED BECAUSE THE AIR DISSIPATED THE GAS BEFORE IT BECAME TOO STRONG!
BUT SHE GOT THE FULL EFFECT AND IT KILLED HER!
WHY SHOULD I KILL HER?
I CAN THINK OF ONE GOOD REASON! JEWELS THAT BELONGED TO THE EMPRESS! JOSEPHINE! I'LL WAGER YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE RIGHT NOW! THE JEWELS SHE WAS WEARING WERE PASTE!
NO! LOUISA LOVED ME! WE WERE TO BE MARRIED!
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE AHEAD OF THE FLOAT! AND I REMEMBER THAT YOU CARRIED A BALLOON, CAESAR!

LET ME GO!
NICE WORK, BUCKY! HOLD ON!
EEEEOWW!
I'LL KNOCK OUT HIS OTHER STILT!
CRACK!
NOW, YOU'RE REALLY GETTING DOWN TO EARTH!!
NOW START TALKING!
I TRIED TO PERSUADE LOUISA TO TAKE THE JEWELS AND RUN AWAY WITH ME! SHE REFUSED. SO I SUBSTITUTED PASTE FOR THE REAL JEWELS, AND...
AND THAT'S WHY YOU KILLED HER! YOU WERE AFRAID SHE'D EXPOSE YOU WHEN SHE FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENED!
HERE ARE THE REAL JEWELS, CAP! THEY WERE HIDDEN IN THE HOLLOW OF HIS STILTS!
SHE SCORNED ANTOINE WHO LOVED HER AND LOVED THE MAN WHO KILLED HER! A STRANGE ENDING FOR THE QUEEN OF THE MARDI GRAS!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CAP! IF SHE LOOKED CLOSER BEHIND THE MASKS MEN WEAR, SHE MIGHT HAVE CHOSEN MORE WISELY!
THE END


HEY LOOK
HEY! LOOK!
THERE'S SOMETHING BRIGHT AND SHINY IN THIS SEWER! LET'S TRY AND GET IT!
YOO! A DIME!
YOU WAIT RIGHT THERE! I'LL GET SOMETHING TO GET IT OUT!
THIS MAGNET OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK!
SNAP!
IT'S HOOKED ON! NOW--- PULL!
PULL SOME MORE!
NNNNNGH!
PULL SOME--OH MY!
LOOKS LIKE WE PULLED UP THE WHOLE SEWER SYSTEM!
BUT THE DIME'S STILL THERE!
THE END

REMEMBER!
The FINEST, FUNNIEST, MOST EXCITING, MOST INTERESTING Comic MAGAZINES YOU CAN BUY ARE THE
MARVEL GROUP MAGAZINES
MARTIN GOODMAN PUBLISHER
STAN LEE EDITOR

By Kent B. Stiles

A geography, and an encyclopaedia are essential tools for the stamp collector who would intelligently pursue his hobby. The newest among the titles of stamp-issuing administrations is "Tokelau Islands." The answer to the question "What and where are the Tokelau Islands?", probably could not have been correctly given by one in a million persons prior to a recent day when the postal authorities of New Zealand announced that, for the first time, special stamps are to be issued for use by the people who inhabit those islands.

That announcement caused collectors to do some research, because future stamp issues will provide spaces for three promised bits of postal paper: half-penny chocolate and violet, a village scene on Atafu; 1p brown and blue-green a hut on Nukunonu; and 2p green and blue, a village scene on Fakaofo.

Atlases and other reference works show that Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofo are the atolls lying 350 miles northeast of Samoa in the Pacific Ocean. Together they form the Tokelau (Union) Islands, seven miles square in area and with a population of about 2,000. Great Britain transferred Tokelau to New Zealand in 1926 and the islands have since been administered under the authority of Western Samoa, which is a territory controlled by New Zealand.

The Tokelau stamps are being printed in London, and it was stated at Wellington, capital of New Zealand, that the series would be made available probably in December, although it will be early in 1948 before the stamps are actually placed in use in the Tokelau Islands.

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What a stamp buy! Big package 100 Foreign Stamps, just as pictured, including Triangles, Commemoratives, Animals, Birds, Early Issues, Scarce Issues, Fine French, Fine Dutch, Cape Jubs, Palestine, the Complete Airmail Set pictured, Bargains galore! Only 10¢ to approval applicants. Send 10¢ today.
LIBERTY STAMP CO., Dept. 75 Jamestown, N. Y.

ZOWIE-E-E! A BARREL OF FUN FOR ONLY A DIME!!
Here's a barrel of fun for only a dime! Contains Triangles, Pictorials, Commemoratives, Animals, Birds, Early Issues, Scarce Issues, Fine French, Fine Dutch, Cape Jubs, Palestine, the Complete Airmail Set pictured, Bargains galore! Only 10¢ to approval applicants. Send 10¢ today.
LIBERTY STAMP CO., Dept. 75 Jamestown, N. Y.

LARGEST DIAMOND and TRIANGLE STAMPS ALSO FIGHTING FREE FRENCH
Triangle Diamond, Fr. Equatorial Africa, Fighting French, Cat. 10c. Triangle Diamond, Fr. Colonies, Cat. 10c. Triangle Diamond, Fr. Colonies, Cat. 10c. Triangle Diamond, Fr. Colonies

THE WHITE VISION

It happened in the Transvaal.

The Transvaal is a land of blackness—black earth, black mines, and men black from the earth, the mines and the past. It is a rich land. But the native knows little of its richness. He mines the coal or the diamonds or the platinum or the gold, and all are equally black to him who is also black.

He troops to the mine in the dusk of the morning, troops homeward in the dusk of the night; so his life is covered by the grayness of the trek from work to work.

The natives of the village of Banya are no different from the natives of any other village in the Transvaal. They too are black, they too shout among themselves as they march homeward in the dying day, they too hold the superstitions of the wild African jungle.

The story was told to me by one of their number.

It was a musty night in late summer that they first heard the music. A blanket of darkness was falling slowly over the mountains, as it was falling over their lives, and the faint murmur of their voices echoed down the valley. Then quietly, splitting the amorphous tenor of their ways, came a strain of sound, sad, compelling, a whisper of the beyond.

They stopped to listen as the music went on, higher and higher, on and on, crying in sadness. At first, they did not care from where it came. But when the piercing ache of it began to cut through, they searched for its meaning, and could find none.

It came from above, out of the air, and they knew no more.

So they continued their plodding homeward. And they told their wives and their children, and soon all the village was talking about the music which came from the air. Every night, as they slid homeward, there was the music. And every night they stopped to listen, until the music became to them a symbol of the unknown, the unreachable. Thus it achieved an acceptance of non-acceptance: they desired no knowledge when the knowledge finally was forthcoming.

One of the younger men had lingered on after the others. It was a hot night, the end of the week, and of all, the music had disturbed him the most. When the valley settled back into its age-old feel of stillness, he lay against a tree and sat, thus, dreaming.

And so he was the first to see her, Mtytyisana, (the crazy one), as she was later called by the villagers.

It was as though she were a part of his dreaming, rising unheralded out of the blackness. Up in the air, where the music came from, suddenly there was a spot of white. A woman, a white woman, with bare legs and arms, wearing a white robe flowing free and long. Her face, too, gleamed a pale opal in the darkness. And suddenly, the light and her body threw a light in the sky, and he could make out the form of a baleful set high on the crest of a mountain. She stood silently, the gold of her hair outlined against the black of the sky, and in her hands the rounded form of a violin.

He watched, awed, and when he went back to tell the villagers, they would not believe him, but said he had been struck by the heat, till one after another of the men reported how a woman in white with bare legs and arms was seen climbing down the mountainside.

Then all the Village began to whisper and to talk about the Mtytyisana. The children would gape if they saw her, and the young men would giggle, and the old women would shake their heads. Nobody had been known to speak to her, but many had seen her.

Always she wore the flowing white robe—like a priestess—and soon it was rumored that the robe was a magic robe and that the Mtytyisana was bewitched. The legend grew like a growing child. They said: "The Mtytyisana does not walk, as ordinary humans, but floats. She does not talk—but her words are as music. She does not work—yet she lives in a palace. Yet, the Mtytyisana cannot be read. She is a vision — come to bring light into

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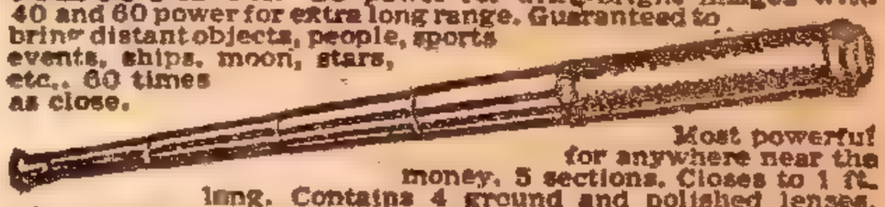

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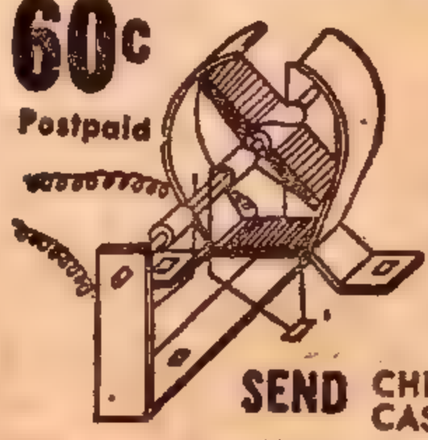

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the darkness of the Transvaal."

But one day, the children waylaid her at the foot of the mountain. They waited all morning, and all afternoon, until the time for the men to come home from the mine, before the Mtytyisana made her appearance. Then they followed her as far up the mountain as they could climb, and when they could climb no further, they threw rocks at her, and shouted, and called her foul names.

From that time on, there was no more music.

At first, they talked a good deal in the homes about how the music had stopped. But it was soon forgotten by the old men and the women and the children. Only the boys, with the romance of youth, could not so easily lay aside the vision of the white woman.

In the beginning, there was nothing but talk. Each of the young men knew exactly what he would do if he met the priestess for just one minute. Till finally, they made a dare. The first man to speak with the Mtytyisana would be paid for the work of an entire day by the rest of the group.

All the men of the village helped with the plans.

Late one night, they met at the foot of the mountain. The youth who was to climb was pounded on the back by each of his fellows, hands were shaken all around, there was a bit more giggling, and he started off up the mountain.

Those who were with him say that he reached the top. But what happened when he and the white woman came face to face, the village never discovered. For when he returned to his comrades, he was as silent as the valley itself.

Together, they returned to their homes. And never again was the Mtytyisana mentioned among them.

Thus would the legend of the white woman who wore a magic robe, climbed mountains and made music, have died—had it not been for the unexpected incidence of her illness. Her maid came panting into the village one day looking for Vasachi, the herb woman. Vasachi was found, and taken to the bedside of the strange Mtytyisana.

When she came back to the village she told a weird tale of how the crazy one lay dying amid a splendor of whiteness, of how the tiny house, built on a ledge of the mountain was of brilliant white marble and glass, though it rocked in the wind on the very edge of nothing. She told how even the walls were white, the carpets, the floor. It was blinding, she said, the radiance which came, not only from the furnishings, but also from the woman herself. Only two things, she said, stood out sharply from the irridescence of the whole—the native maid, and the violin which bore music.

Vasachi reported, too, that the Mtytyisana was truly dying, that she had utilized all her remedies, but she knew that nothing would come of them. And she whispered mysteriously to the women how the Mtytyisana had foretold her own ending.

That night the young man of the dare came running frantically through the village. His gestures were wild, his breath wilder, as he pointed toward the river.

Everybody in the village woke. And, en masse, the entire village followed the youth to the side of the river where, far up-stream, the silver body of the Mtytyisana gleamed in the moon-light.

Nobody made a move to save the white woman, as if in common recognition of her destiny. But a fire was lit by the bank, and the villagers huddled round it, moaning the music which had first brought them to the legend of the Mtytyisana.

And as the music drifted down the river, so the whiteness blended into the blackness, bringing the Transvaal once more back into the realm of the familiar.

THE END SL—2203

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC. REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946

of Blonde Phantom Comics published Quarterly at Meriden, Conn. for Ocotober 1, 1947.

State of New York } ss.
County of New York }

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Martin Goodman, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the Blonde Phantom Comics and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semiweekly or triweekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Medallion Publishing Corp., 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Editor, Stan Lee, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Managing Editor, Stan Lee, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Business Manager, Martin Goodman, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

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3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is ..... (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

(Signed) MARTIN GOODMAN.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of September, 1947.

(SEAL) SYLVIA FIEGEN.

(My commission expires March 30, 1949.)

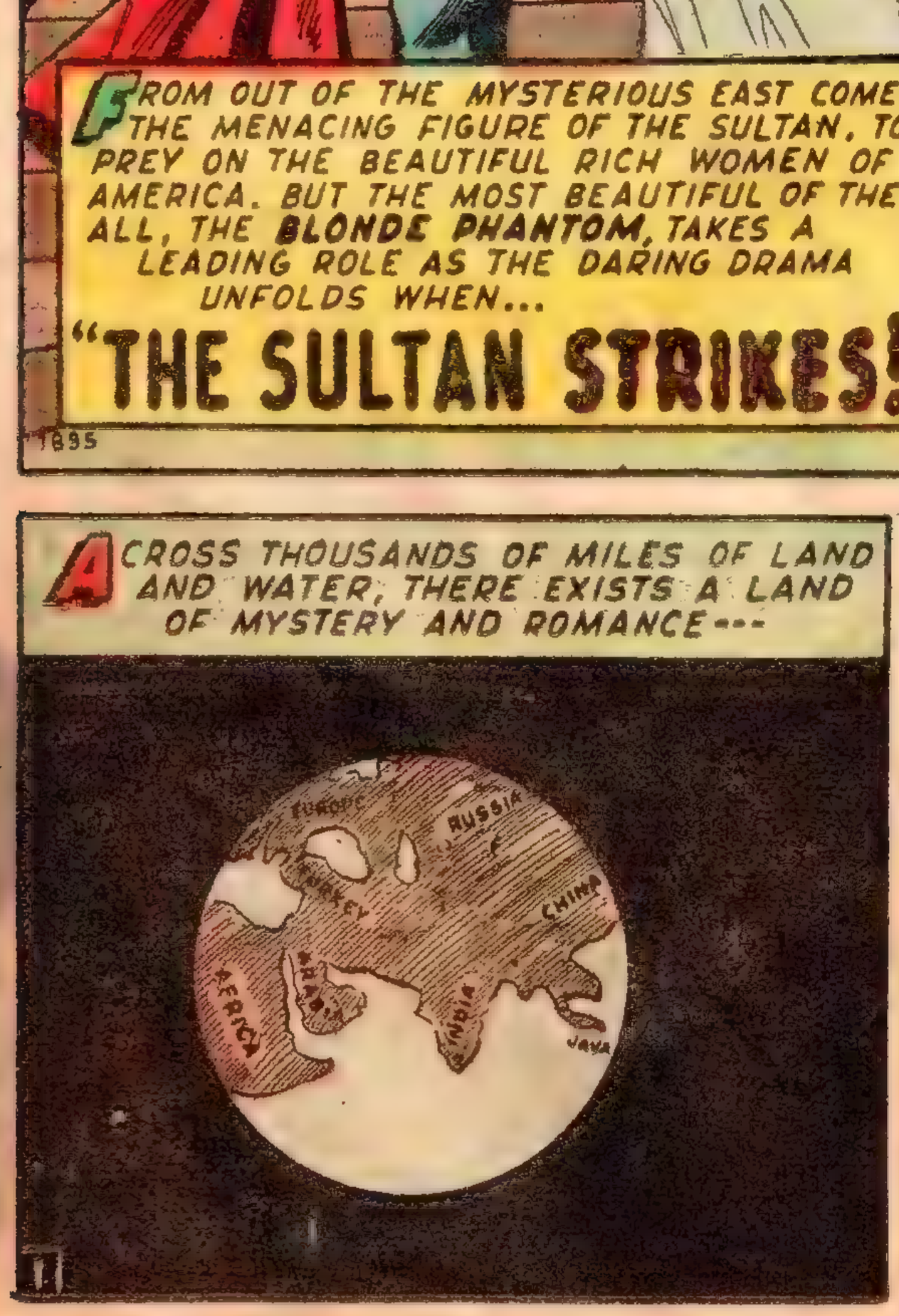
BLONDE PHANTOM

FROM OUT OF THE MYSTERIOUS EAST COMES THE MENACING FIGURE OF THE SULTAN, TO PREY ON THE BEAUTIFUL RICH WOMEN OF AMERICA. BUT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF THEM ALL, THE **BLONDE PHANTOM**, TAKES A LEADING ROLE AS THE DARING DRAMA UNFOLDS WHEN...

"THE SULTAN STRIKES!"

1695

ACROSS THOUSANDS OF MILES OF LAND AND WATER, THERE EXISTS A LAND OF MYSTERY AND ROMANCE---



AND IN THE LAND OF BANGOOK STANDS THE FORBIDDING CASTLE OF A WICKED SULTAN...

AN AUCTION TAKES PLACE IN THE COURT-YARD...

LATER, A COURTIER REPORTS TO HIS MASTER...

THE SULTAN WAS WELCOMED TO THE U.S.A.! EVERYWHERE HE WAS INVITED TO THE HOMES OF THE WEALTHY AND INTRODUCED TO THE MARRIAGEABLE DAUGHTERS! ZORO AND BLEFER KEPT BUSY TOO!

AND, IN MARK MASON'S OFFICE...

MARK; YOU WERE DICTATING A LETTER TO THE LANDLORD EXPLAINING *WHY* WE *CAN'T* PAY THE RENT THIS MONTH!

HMM. WHO'S THIS?

I NEED YOUR HELP! I'M ENGAGED TO MARION CARTER... OR I *WAS!* BUT NOW I'M AFRAID SHE'S GOING TO MARRY THE SULTAN OF BANGOOK!

THIS *ISN'T* A LONELY HEARTS BUREAU!

I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT THE SULTAN REALLY IS LIKE! IF HE'S A RIGHT GUY, I'LL STEP OUT OF THE PICTURE! BUT IF HE ISN'T...

I GET IT! OKAY, I'LL TAKE THE JOB!

LATER...

THERE'S A COMING-OUT PARTY TONIGHT FOR THAT YOUNG FELLOW'S GIRL, MARION CARTER! THE SULTAN WILL BE THERE AND SO WILL I!

THIEVES ROBBED *ONE* MANSION WHERE THE SULTAN WAS BEING ENTERTAINED! THEY MAY TRY THE SAME TRICK AGAIN!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

THERE'S THE SULTAN NOW! AND HE'S WITH MARION CARTER!

HE HAS A WAY WITH THE WOMEN ALL RIGHT!

OH-OH! MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT ABOUT THIEVES! HONEST MEN DON'T NEED TO CLIMB IN THROUGH BACK WINDOWS!
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY A RICH MAN'S HOME LIKE THIS ISN'T EQUIPPED WITH BURGLAR ALARMS!
HERE IS THE SAFE! EXACTLY WHERE THE SULTAN SAID IT WOULD BE! HE CUT THE BURGLAR ALARMS FOR US TOO!
A MOMENT'S WORK— AND THE CONTENTS SHALL BE IN OUR HANDS!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLACE ANY BETS? I'LL BET YOU LOSE!
A WOMAN IN COSTUME? WHO IS SHE?
I'M CALLED THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
SEIZE HER!
UGHHH!
TSK TSK! HOW CAN YOU BE SO CLUMSY, BOYS?

HMMM! THIS ONE STILL SHOWS SIGNS OF LIFE!

THIS WILL KEEP YOU QUIET!

BUT! I'LL NOTIFY MRS. CARTER, SO SHE CAN CALL THE POLICE!

I THOUGHT I HEARD A NOISE! SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG! SHE MUST *NOT* GIVE WARNING!

YOU ARE GOING NOWHERE, BEAUTIFUL ONE!

UHHH?

THAT'S WHAT *YOU* THINK!

YIIIII!

MAYBE NOT WHERE *YOU* COME FROM, SULTAN!

NO MERE WOMAN CAN DO THIS TO ME!

BUT IN THIS COUNTRY WOMEN ARE FREE AND EQUAL!
HELP!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THIS NOISE? OH, IT'S YOU, SULTAN!
YOU POOR, POOR MAN! YOU'VE BEEN HURT!
I WAS DEFENDING YOUR HOME AGAINST THIS COSTUMED THIEF! I FOUND HER COMING OUT OF YOUR ROOM!
THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE, MOTHER! SHE'S THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
INDEED! PERHAPS YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHY YOU WERE SULKING ABOUT MY HOUSE?
I JUST CAPTURED TWO ROBBERS WHO... WHY, THEY'RE GONE!
I GAVE ZORO AND BLEFIR THE DELAY THEY NEEDED! THEY'VE ESCAPED!
ON MARK MASON'S OFFICE, ONE WEEK LATER...
YOU PROMISED RESULTS! BUT YOU HAVEN'T FOUND OUT ANYTHING! I TELL YOU, SHE'S GOING TO MARRY THE SULTAN!
CAN I HELP THAT?
I-I HARDLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY, MR. CARTER!
YOUR STORY IS HARDLY CREDIBLE, YOUNG LADY! IF I CATCH YOU NEAR MY HOME AGAIN, I'LL TURN YOU OVER TO THE POLICE!

I CHECKED UP ON HIM AND HE'S THE *GENUINE* SULTAN OF BANGOOK! THAT'S ALL I'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT!

IT'S *NOT* ENOUGH! FROM NOW ON I'M HANDLING THIS CASE *MY OWN WAY!*

I'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON THAT YOUNG FELLOW, OR HE MAY GET INTO TROUBLE! I'M JUST AS SUSPICIOUS OF THE SULTAN AS HE IS!

GOOD-BYE!

SLAM!

IN THE SULTAN OF BANGOOK'S APARTMENT...

WE HAVE DONE WELL IN THIS COUNTRY, O SULTAN!

OUR... ER... ...BUSINESS VENTURES HAVE SHOWN A GREAT PROFIT! IT IS FITTING THAT WE SHOULD CELEBRATE WITH THIS BANQUET!

BUT BLEFIR AND I CANNOT HELP BEING DISTURBED BY THESE REPORTS THAT YOU WILL MARRY THE YOUNG HEIRESS MARION CARTER! IS IT THE TRUTH?

SHE IS A PRETTY LITTLE ONE! BUT I AM INTERESTED ONLY IN HER *MONEY!*

SO!

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, YOU TEN CENT STORE CASANOVA! I'LL TEACH YOU TO BREAK MY GIRL'S HEART!

EH! HAVE YOU GONE *MAD?*

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW *MAD* I AM!

SOCK!

THE IMPUDENT ONE SHALL PAY!
THE PENALTY FOR STRIKING THE SULTAN OF BANGOOK IS DEATH! IN MY COUNTRY YOU WOULD DIE BY THE SLOW TORTURE OF A THOUSAND CUTS! HERE I WILL BE MORE MERCIFUL! YOU WILL DIE QUICKLY!
WELL, WHAT D'YA KNOW? MY THIEVING FRIENDS ARE HERE, TOO!
NOW I UNDERSTAND THE SET-UP! YOU AND THE SULTAN WORK TOGETHER!
YOU WILL NEVER TELL ANYONE!
THAT YOUNG FOOL DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A WAITER, AND WENT INTO THE SULTAN'S APARTMENT! I HEARD SOUNDS OF A SCUFFLE!
A COWARDLY BLOW FROM BEHIND...
I'LL KILL YOU— OOOOF!
OHHHH!
13

WHEN THE BLONDE PHANTOM RECOVERS...

WH-WHERE AM I?

A FEW MOMENTS FROM ETERNITY! I BID YOU A LAST FAREWELL! WE MUST LEAVE YOU TO KEEP AN APPOINTMENT AT THE CARTER MANSION!

AT LEAST YOU WILL NOT BE ALONE IN DEATH! HA-HA!

THE CAR! THEY'RE PUSHING IT INTO THE RIVER!

AS THE CAR SETTLES HEAVILY TO THE RIVER BOTTOM, THE CRASH SHATTERS A WINDOW PANE!

I'VE GOT TO UNTIE THESE ROPES QUICKLY—OR WE'LL DROWN!

A LUCKY BREAK! I'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN FREE IN TIME!

I COULDN'T... HAVE... LASTED... ANOTHER MINUTE!

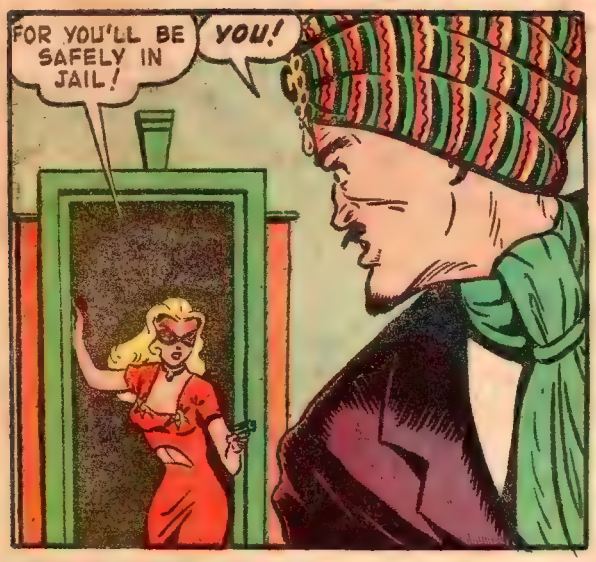
MINUTES LATER...

I'M ALL RIGHT NOW, THANKS TO YOU!

I WANT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL! THEN I'M GOING TO PAY THE SULTAN A *RETURN VISIT!*

NIGHT, AND THE SULTAN IS HARD AT WORK...

A VERITABLE FORTUNE! NO ONE WILL INTERRUPT US! MARION AND HER MOTHER ARE BUYING THE TROUSSEAU FOR HER WEDDING WHICH WILL NEVER TAKE PLACE!

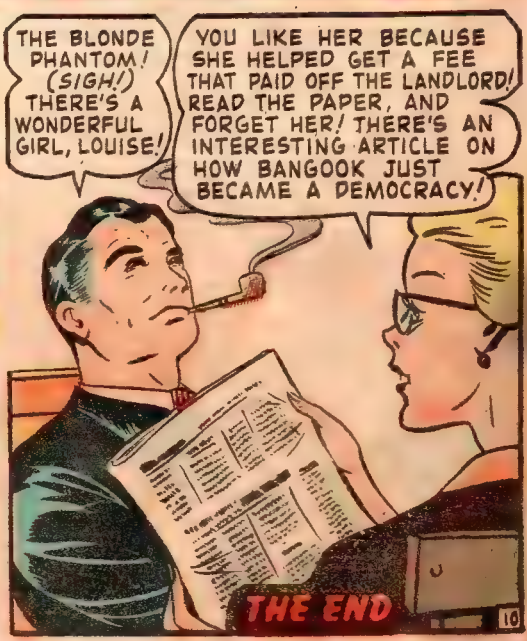

FOR YOU'LL BE SAFELY IN JAIL!
YOU!

FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES!
IT'LL COST YOUR LIFE IF YOU TAKE ONE MORE STEP!

I GOT YOUR PHONE CALL, BLONDE PHANTOM! THANKS FOR THE TIP!
WE CAUGHT THE SULTAN, RED-HANDED!

WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW, O SULTAN?
ALL IS LOST! I FEAR IT WILL BE A LONG, LONG TIME BEFORE WE SEE BANGOOK AGAIN!

LATER...
MARION AND I ARE OFF ON OUR HONEYMOON! I OWE EVERYTHING TO YOU, MR. MASON! AND TO THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
GOOD LUCK, SON!


THE BLONDE PHANTOM! (SIGH!) THERE'S A WONDERFUL GIRL, LOUISE!
YOU LIKE HER BECAUSE SHE HELPED GET A FEE THAT PAID OFF THE LANDLORD! READ THE PAPER, AND FORGET HER! THERE'S AN INTERESTING ARTICLE ON HOW BANGOOK JUST BECAME A DEMOCRACY!
THE END

BOYS! GIRLS! HURRY

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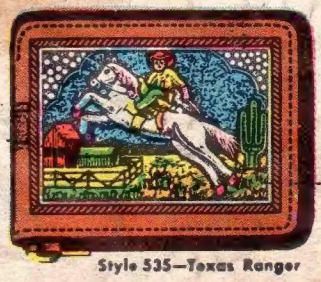

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